



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Assateague Island National Seashore
PO Box 38
Chincoteague, VA 23336
757-336-6577 (phone) 757-336-5203 (fax)

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 62
Chincoteague, VA 23336
757-336-6122 (phone) 757-336-5273 (fax)



Assateague Island National Seashore & Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

2006 Environmental Education Programs

What: Expand the boundaries of your classroom to include Assateague Island! Choose from a variety of programs that provide students with opportunities to discover and explore the island's wildlife and habitats from beach to bay.

When: Programs are offered on a "first-come, first-serve" basis, so schedule early! Reservations should be made at least 2 weeks in advance. Special programs may be arranged if staff are available.



Where: Assateague Island National Seashore, Virginia District
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia

How Many: To facilitate a quality learning experience, some programs are limited to 15 students. At least 2 chaperones (a 1:5 ratio is ideal) are required on all programs.

Contact: Alison Penn 757-336-6122 ext. 339

*There is no charge for programs,
but donations are gratefully accepted.*

Your Confirmation Form will serve as your entrance fee waiver.





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National Park Service Programs

These programs are offered Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. Teachers, please stop at the Toms Cove Visitor Center to meet with the rangers presenting the programs to coordinate logistics.

Aquarium Talk

Age range: All ages (Targeted for Pre-K through 2nd Grade)
Duration: 1 - 1.5 hours



A firsthand introduction to the creatures that live in the waters surrounding Assateague Island. Students will learn about this “fish-eat-fish” world and the fascinating adaptations some creatures have evolved to keep from being someone else’s lunch! This half-hour segment is combined with a short beach activity.

Beach Walk

Age Range: All ages
Duration: 1.5 hours



Assateague is moving! Students find out where and why as they explore the processes of barrier island ecology. Students will also discover the necessary adaptations required to survive in this ever-changing environment.

Marine Explorers

Age Range: 7th - 12th Grade
Duration: 2 hours



Using basic sampling and collecting equipment, students explore the island from beach to bay to learn how the habitats weave together to form a barrier island ecosystem. This program is designed for returning groups or groups that are studying barrier island ecosystems. Students will get wet to their knees. Wear shoes and clothing that can get wet.

Salt Marsh Adventure

Age Range: All Ages
Duration: 1.5 hours



Is the salt marsh a wonderland or a wasteland? A menace or a marvel? Students discover the answers for themselves as they explore the intriguing qualities of the salt marsh. Students will be getting their feet wet and muddy.



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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Programs

These programs meet at the Herbert H. Bateman Educational & Administrative Center.

Habitat Hunting



Age range: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

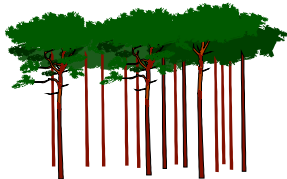
Duration: 1.5 hours

Science SOL: K.1, K.2, K.6, 1.1, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.5, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.9, 3.10

In addition, the forestry version covers SOL K.8, 1.4, 2.8

This lively, hands-on program teaches students what an animal needs to live and how they find what they need on a national wildlife refuge. Choose between the aquatic or forestry version.

Forest Ecology



Age range: 4th - 5th grade

Duration: 1.5 hours

Science SOL: 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7

Students explore a forest of Assateague Island and learn what makes it tick! From plants to animals, from soil to water, and everything in between, the forest is a great place to learn about the interdependency of life and to experience the tranquility of nature.

The Human Connection

Age range: 4th - 8th grade

Duration: 1.5 - 2 hours

Science SOL: 4.1, 4.5, 4.8, 5.1, 5.5, 6.1, 6.9, LS.4, LS.5, LS.7, LS.9, LS.12

Through a scientific study of birds and their habitats, students discover how humans are impacting the environment both positively and negatively.

Wildlife and Technology



Age range: 6th - 8th grade

Duration: 2 hours

Science SOL: 6.9, LS.12, PS.8

Biologists use a number of technological tools to protect and conserve wildlife populations; from banding animals to tracking them with radio or satellite telemetry. Through active participation, students become biologists for a day while using this equipment.

Island Makeover



Age range: high school

Duration: 2 to 4 hours

Science SOL - ES.8, BIO.8, BIO.9

Get the “Big Picture” of Assateague Island through this comprehensive tour of habitats that focuses on barrier island ecology. Want the Bird’s Eye view? Add a tour of the Assateague Island Lighthouse.

Get Prepared!

Enhance your class trip to Assateague Island through a pre-visit activity. Choose an activity that will familiarize the students with your chosen program topic and Assateague Island. Here are a few tips to help you develop and conduct an activity:



- For general information visit websites:
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge: <http://chinco.fws.gov>
Assateague Island National Seashore: <http://www.nps.gov/asis>
- Prepared pre- and post-visit activities are available for some of the programs. Refuge and Park Service brochures are also available by request.
- Utilize resources such as Project Wild and Project Wild - Aquatic:

Pre-Visit Activity	Grade Level	Education Program
Aqua Words	K - 8	Aquarium Talk Beach Walk Salt Marsh Adventure
Checks and Balances	6 - 12	Human Connection Island Makeover Wildlife & Technology
Everybody Needs a Home	K - 3	Beach Walk Habitat Hunting Salt Marsh Adventure
Graphananimal	2 - 6	Forest Ecology Habitat Hunting
Learning To Look, Looking To See	K - 8	All Programs
Marsh Munchers	3 - 6	Marine Explorers Salt Marsh Adventure
Shrinking Habitat	4 - 7	Beach Walk Forest Ecology Marine Explorers Salt Marsh Adventure The Human Connection Wildlife & Technology
Water We Eating	K - 12	Aquarium Talk Beach Walk Marine Explorers Salt Marsh Adventure

For more information regarding Project Wild contact Environmental Education Specialist Alison Penn at 757-336-6122 ext. 339.

Don't forget to prepare the students for the outdoors.

Proper footwear and clothes are a must! Several layers of clothing and outerwear will keep students comfortable as temperatures on Assateague Island usually average 10 degrees cooler than on the mainland. If rain is forecast, please bring appropriate rain gear. Footwear that can get wet and muddy is needed for several of the offered programs. Supplying parents and students with this information will help ensure a successful learning opportunity.

